

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1415

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1415, the tobacco bill, be referred to the Finance Committee until 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, and if the committee has not reported the bill at that time, the measure be automatically discharged and placed immediately on the calendar, notwithstanding a recess or adjournment of the Senate.

I further ask the Finance Committee have permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 14, to consider S. 1415.

Mr. McCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. I would ask the majority leader if he could hold for a few moments on propounding this UC; there are some discussions going on on that subject.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will withhold the unanimous consent request at this time, and while I am working on both of these unanimous consent requests, the Senators from Iowa wish to be recognized so I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2078 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 1415

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1415, the tobacco bill, be referred to the Finance Committee until 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, and if the committee has not reported the bill at that time, the measure be automatically discharged and placed immediately on the calendar, notwithstanding a recess or adjournment of the Senate.

I further ask that the Senate Finance Committee have permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 14, to consider S. 1415.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent again that the Senate turn to S. 2057, the DOD authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2057) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities in

the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dan Groeschel be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the 1999 defense authorization bill.

Mr. PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Parliamentary inquiry. What is the floor situation right now? What are we on?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are on the bill S. 2057, Department of Defense authorization bill.

NUCLEAR DETONATIONS IN INDIA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to take a little time again today to talk about the perilous situation that we find in south Asia at this point in time. Once again, in complete disregard of world opinion, in complete disregard of peace in the region, in complete disregard of the concerns of its neighbors and its allies and friends, yesterday the nation of India once again detonated two more nuclear devices. That makes five in 2 days.

What I hear around here, Mr. President, people are saying, what have they done? Have they lost their senses? Have they lost all concept of reality? Have they gone berserk? Are they completely nutty now? Those are the kinds of things I hear around the Chamber and around the Capitol—people talking about India, and what has happened to them. I do not believe that all Indians have gone berserk or that all Indians are crazy, but certainly something has happened with their Government to flaunt what they have done, to go ahead and not only set off three in 1 day, but two the next day, and also near the border of Pakistan. For the life of me, I cannot understand what they can possibly be thinking of.

So, I am pleased that the President has announced that he will, in accordance with the law, invoke the full range of sanctions that are required under the Nuclear Policy Prevention Act of 1994. These are tough, and we want to make sure that the administration follows through on them. We have to end all foreign assistance and loans to the Nation of India. We must terminate all military aid and weapons transfers. We must oppose international foreign aid and financial assistance to the Nation through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. I understand many of

our allies have decided to join in placing these sanctions on India. The law requires it, and we must place the full measure of the law on India in this regard.

Mr. President, I visited the south Asia region twice in the last year and a half. I understand the complexity of their internal politics and their international relations. But I must say this, that whatever problems there may have been before have been multiplied a thousandfold by what India just did.

Again, I hope the nations in that region will exercise caution and restraint in light of this. Right now, India has become the pariah of the world community of nations, and rightfully so, for what it has done. It should remain a pariah for a considerable amount of time, until it reverses its course, until it sits down with its neighbors to reach peaceful solutions in that area, until India is willing to sit down with its neighbor, Pakistan, and solve once and for all the issue of Kashmir; until India is ready to sit down with its neighbor, Pakistan, and secure their borders; until India is willing to disavow putting their nuclear arsenals within their military. Until that time, until these things are done, India will and should remain a pariah among the world community of nations.

Earlier today, our Secretary of Defense appeared before our Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. We discussed these developments in south Asia and what they mean. Will there be a nuclear arms race now in the region? Will Pakistan follow suit and detonate a nuclear weapons test in response to India? What about China? What is China going to do now? How about Iran? Don't forget, they have a border also. What is Iran going to do now that India has taken this step? So what are all these nations going to do?

Secretary Cohen this morning, in open testimony, indicated that we may see a chain reaction of events. I think that is an apt term, considering the physics of nuclear fission. Just as a nuclear explosion is an uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction, so we may see uncontrolled events now happen in that region. But, just like a nuclear chain reaction, there are things you can do to slow it down and stop it. Just as in a nuclear powerplant, to slow down the chain reaction, they stick in the graphite rods to slow down the reaction, so we need to insert some graphite rods into the events that just happened in south Asia.

What I mean by that is that I believe that certain steps must be taken to slow down these events. First of all, as I mentioned, we must apply the full force and effect of law on the sanctions to India. Second, I believe we must meet with Pakistan at the earliest possible time to discuss our mutual security needs in that area of the world; to discuss them with Pakistan, who has been a friend and an ally going clear back to the establishment of Pakistan as a nation. When people wondered